DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 20330

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

19 May 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Space Policy Committee Meeting, 18 May 1976

REFERENCE: Remote Earth Imagery: Issues and Policy Options (TS)

The meeting was held with principals only in Mr. Sisco's office. Following a brief introduction by Mr. Sisco, he and Leon Sloss led the discussion through each issue following the format of the referenced document.

The first issue, relative to declassifying the "fact of," was resolved unanimously with Option B, which maintains classification of the "fact of." The only minor negative comments were by Jack Townsend, NOAA, who did not oppose the decision, but explained the rationale for declassification.

Relative to expanded civil use of high-resolution imagery, Issue #2, I made two points which were accepted by the group:

1. Page 15 of the referenced document introduced a definition of very high resolution imagery at 5 meters or better, and high resolution imagery at 5 to 30 meters. I asked that this definition be removed from the document, in that it does not tie in with present capabilities which are all better than 5 meters and, further, that it might lead to confusion relative to the standards of earlier documents of 10 and 20 meters.

2. In the referenced document, discussion about the Committee for Civil Application of Classified Overhead Photography of the U.S. and the proposal to enlarge such civil use makes no reference to the President's Omnibus Executive Order 11905 and its "Restrictions," Section V. This order restricts the operation of surveillance systems within the

U.S., except with special approval by the Attorney General. I asked that this document be referenced and all consideration for enlarged civil use be in accordance with the Order and that the Attorney General be consulted. This led to Suboption B 1 being accepted by the group, modified as follows: Extend the charter of the Interior-chaired committee to cover other Federal Agencies users requirements.

Issue #3, Option A, was selected unanimously, changing the limit from 20 meters to 10 meters. Recommendations #1, #2, and #3 were accepted unanimously as written.

[redacted]

cc: Dr. Cook, SAF/USS
Gen Shields, SAF/SS